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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 5 and 11 to 13 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An electric charging apparatus for charging a secondary battery that which is held in the apparatus and being attachable/removable to/from a printer main body, the printer being driven by electric power from the secondary battery while the electric charging apparatus is attached to the printer, comprising:

a communication unit configured to perform communication with the printer to which the electric charging apparatus is attached;

determination means for determining an electric charging condition for electrically charging the secondary battery; and

control means for controlling electric charging of the secondary battery in accordance with an electric charging control signal for the secondary battery, transmitted via said communication unit from the printer ~~in correspondence with a state in which in a case where~~ a print head of the printer is capped, and the electric charging condition determined by said determination means.

2. (Previously Presented) The charging apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

an input terminal configured to input an electric power from a commercial power source; and

power source relay means for supplying the electric power supplied via said input terminal to the printer, and relay-outputting the electric power for the electric charging of the secondary battery.

3. (Currently Amended) An electric charging apparatus for charging a secondary battery that which is held in the apparatus and being attachable/removable to/from a printer ~~main body~~, the printer being driven by electric power from the secondary battery while the electric charging apparatus is attached to the printer, comprising:

supply means for supplying the electric power from the secondary battery to the printer to which the electric charging apparatus is attached;

reception means for receiving a signal from the printer;

charge control means for ~~starting electric charging of~~ charging the secondary battery in a case where a condition for electric charging the secondary battery is satisfied, when it is instructed by the signal received by said reception means to turn off the printer; and

control means for stopping electric power supply from the secondary battery to the printer by said supply means, after ~~completion of~~ the electric charging of the secondary battery ~~by said charge control means~~ is completed.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A printer, which an electric charging unit

including a secondary battery is attachable/removable to/from, and which can be operated with electric power supply from the secondary battery included in the electric charging unit while the electric charging apparatus is attached to the printer, comprising:

a communication unit configured to perform communication with the electric charging unit which is attached to the printer; and

transmission control means for transmitting an electric charging control signal for the secondary battery indicating that electric charging of the secondary battery is enabled to the electric charging unit via said communication unit, in a case that where a print head of the printer is capped.

6. (Previously Presented) The printer according to claim 5, wherein the electric charging unit includes an input terminal configured to input an electric power from a commercial power source, and wherein the printer further comprises:

determination means for determining whether or not electric charging of the secondary battery is necessary; and

control means for, in a status where the electric power is supplied via said input terminal, if said determination means determines that the electric charging of the secondary battery is necessary, controlling said transmission control means to transmit the electric charging control signal indicating that the electric charging of the secondary battery is enabled.

7. (Previously Presented) The printer according to claim 5, further

comprising power-source shut-off signal transmission control means for transmitting a signal indicating power-source shut-off to the electric charging unit via said communication unit.

8. (Previously Presented) The printer according to claim 5, wherein when a print command is inputted from an external device while the electric charging unit electrically charges the secondary battery, said control means controls said transmission control means to transmit a signal indicating that the electric charging of the secondary battery is disabled.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) The printer according to claim 9, wherein said printer is an ink jet printing apparatus which forms an image on the printing medium by discharging ink from the print head.

11. (Currently Amended) An electric charging control method in an electric charging apparatus for charging a secondary battery that which is held in the apparatus and being attachable/removable to/from a printer main body, the printer being driven by electric power from the secondary battery while the electric charging unit is attached to the printer, said method comprising:

a supply step of supplying the electric power from the secondary battery to the printer to which the electric charging unit is attached;

a determination step of determining an electric charging condition for electrically charging the secondary battery;

a reception step of receiving an electric charging control signal for the secondary battery from the printer, in correspondence with a state of the printer; and

a control step of controlling ~~electrically~~ electric charging of the secondary battery in accordance with the electric charging control signal received in said reception step and the electric charging condition determined in said determination step.

12. (Currently Amended) A control method for an electric charging apparatus for charging a secondary battery that which is held in the apparatus and being attachable/~~removable~~ to/~~from~~ a printer ~~main body~~, the printer being driven by electric power from the secondary battery while the electric charging unit is attached to the printer, said method comprising:

a supply step of supplying the electric power from the secondary battery to the printer to which the electric charging unit is attached;

a reception step of receiving a signal from the printer;

a charge control step of ~~starting electric charging of~~ charging the secondary battery in a case where a condition for electric charging the secondary battery is satisfied, when it is instructed by the signal received in said reception step to turn off the printer; and

a control step of stopping electric power supply from the secondary battery to the printer, after ~~completion of the electric charge~~ charging of the secondary battery in ~~said charge control step~~ is completed.

13. (Currently Amended) An electric charging control method of a printer, which an electric charging unit including a secondary battery is attachable/removable to/from, and which can be operated with electric power supply from the secondary battery included in the electric charging unit while the electric charging unit is attached to the printer, said method comprising:

a transmission control step of periodically transmitting an electric charging control signal for the secondary battery from the printer to the electric charging unit which is attached to the printer, in a case where a state of the printer is a predetermined state; and

a step of changing a status of the electric charging control signal and transmitting the electric charging control signal whose status is changed to the electric charging unit, in a case where the state of the printer is changed from the predetermined state to another state.

14. (Cancelled)